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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/961,423	09/25/2001	Hidetomo Sohma	862.C2387	6886

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EXAMINER

FILIPCZYK, MARCIN R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 03/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/961,423

Applicant(s)

SOHMA ET AL.

Examiner

Marc R Filipczyk

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Response to Amendment

This action is responsive to Applicant's response filed on December 6, 2004 wherein amended claims 1-23 are pending.

To expedite the process of examination Examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. amendments, 35 U.S.C. 112, objections and the like) set forth by the Examiner that Applicants provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where the best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Claim Objections

Claims 1-23 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20, the feature of "accepting a user's" metadata after changing the selected type of content should be replaced with "accepting **the** user's" to clarify that only one user is claimed.

Claims 2-8, 11-16, 18 and 21-23 depend from claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20 respectively, and are therefore objected to having the same informalities as their respected parent claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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Claims 1-3, 9-12 and 15-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cazemier et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,609,123).

Regarding claims 1, 9, 10, 17 and 19-23, Cazemier discloses a method, program and system for managing data by appending metadata for a data search to managed data, comprising: (abstract, lines 1-4, and fig. 2)

accepting user's selection of the managed data to which the metadata is to be appended; (fig. 2, items 15 and 25, and fig. 2A, item 100)

accepting a user's selection of a type of content of the managed data; (col. 6, lines 41 and 42, and fig. 2A, items 15 and 100)

displaying on a screen of a display device a group of candidates of metadata, each group of candidates being prepared in advance in correspondence with each type of content of the managed data (fig. 2, item 25 and col. 6, lines 30-32);

(Note: metadata describes other data, and meta model describes metadata related to type of content)

changing a display of candidates of metadata to be provided in a response to a change of the selected type of content of the managed data; (fig. 2, items 10, 15 and 25 and col. 6, line 62 to col. 7, line 10)

accepting a user's selection of metadata to be appended to the selected data from the provided groups of candidates of the metadata; (fig. 2A, item 15) and,

saving the user's selected data and the selected metadata in association with each other (fig. 2 and 2A, item 15).

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Regarding claim 2, Cazemier discloses accepting input of a search condition used to search for the managed data; (fig. 3, item 30 and fig. 8, item 124)

searching for the data associated with the search condition on the basis of the input search condition and the metadata (fig. 3, items 15 and 30).

Regarding claim 3, Cazemier discloses partially providing contents of the data found by the search (fig. 2A and fig. 3, items 30 and 40).

Regarding claims 11, 12, 15 and 16, Cazemier discloses:

accepting input of a search condition used to search for the managed data; (fig. 3, item 30 and fig. 8, item 124)

searching for the data associated with the search condition on the basis of the input search condition and the metadata; (fig. 3, items 15 and 30) and,

partially providing contents of the managed data found by search. (fig. 3, item 40)

Regarding claim 18, Cazamier discloses accepting input of a search condition used to search for the managed data; (fig. 3, item 30 and fig. 8, item 124)

accepting input of a search condition used to search for the managed data; (fig.3, item 30)

searching for the data associated with the search condition on the basis of the input search condition and the metadata; (fig. 3, items 15 and 30) and,

partially providing contents of the data found by search (fig. 3, 40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-8, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cazemier et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,609,123) in view of Rowe et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,941).

Regarding claims 4-8, 13 and 14, Cazemier discloses all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above in claim 1, but does not teach moving image data (claims 4, 7, 13), event types (claims 5 and 6) or audio data (claims 8 and 14).

However, Examiner asserts that the features of moving data, event types and audio data are common to the ordinary skilled in the art where the application of the invention is in the field of weddings. Taking Cazamier system and implementing it in such an application such as a wedding, multidata would consist of moving objects and data recorded would be associated with an event type, and data would consist of audio and images. To further demonstrate the point, Examiner introduces Rowe system wherein moving image data (fig. 8A, items 305 and 306), event types (fig. 8A, items 308), associations of moving image data and event types (fig. 8A, item 309) and displaying partial data (fig. 8A, items 311 and 406) are all taught by Rowe. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement Cazemier system in view of Rowe system such as in a wedding application

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to obtain metadata associated with event type consisting of images and audio data. One would have been motivated to use Cazemier in a wedding system or that similar to Rowe system because Cazemier teaches a querying system with associating metadata based on conditions, thus would be ideal in a wedding like environment.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on December 6, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments and responses are listed above.

Applicant argues on page 13 of the 12/6/04 response, that the feature of "changing a display of a group of candidates of metadata to be provided in response to a change of the selected type of content of the managed data" as claimed in the amended claims is not taught by Cazemier or Rowe.

In response to Applicant's argument, Examiner disagrees. Cazamier clearly discloses user interface 25 provides users with the ability to browse through the metadata model 15 and **manipulate** the *objects* defined thereby (col. 6, lines 63-66). Further, Cazemier discloses the user interface 25 allows users for the basic maintenance tasks on the *objects* in the metadata model 15 comprising changing a name, descriptive text or **data type** (col. 7, lines 3-6) and that the user has the ability to view (diagram) the metadata model, so that the user can see how objects are related (col. 7, lines 8-10). Note, metadata is data about other data, and metadata model is metadata that maps to and defines a specific data type. Cazamier teaches that metadata

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model can be displayed and manipulated (modified) by the user, hence changing the data type will change the metadata model which will change the metadata.

No other issues have been raised.

With respect to all the pending claims 1-23, Examiner respectfully traverses Applicant's assertion based on the discussion and rejection cited above.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R Filipczyk whose telephone number is (571) 272-4019. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF
March 10, 2005


FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER